









private comfort in the society in which I have lived for some years past." "But," he goes on to say, " whilst I have endeavoured to fulfil my duty to Her Majesty's Government in the public course of repression I have pursued, it did not consist with my station to sanction measures of general and indiscriminate repression, which would have injured Her Majesty's officers and subjects, and the rights of working out all objects, right or wrong, which set all the obligations of moderation and justice at defiance. I have resisted the Commissioner's actual demands, because they were utterly unjust; and because their concession would have involved the abandonment of the principle, which can never be yielded by Great Britain, that any power should maintain a sale or monopoly of the British trade in this country." Such was the temper of the British representative at that time. Had the Chinese Government recognised legitimate trade and endeavoured honestly to prevent the smuggling of opium, the British Government would have offered no opposition. But that was not the case. The Chinese Government was not only corrupt and dishonest, but was nominally contraband, these while it was to prevent its being smuggled into the country were quite willing to accept payment of dues upon it. The Chinese Government is alone responsible for the growth of the trade. The British Government is the only party who countenanced smuggling to the detriment of the Chinese. The British representative at Canton was sensitive and endeavoured to repress it. The Chinese, however, were either unable or unwilling to adopt such measures as would give effect to the British Representative's attempts in this direction, and so the trade grew. The Kwangtung Government, in the name of the Emperor, made threats and injuries on the Chinese market, and the British Government, though making no distinction between those engaged in legitimate trade, British officials were treated with contumely and scorn, and after a long period of forbearance on the part of the British, hostilities were commenced, not for the purpose of forcing opium in the Chinese, but to compel fair and equal treatment of British subjects and due respect to the British representative. Provost Moscow says that after the war was over "our plenipotentiary, Sir HENRY POTTINGER, tried to get the opium traffic legalised," but this was simply in order to put an end to the state of lawlessness which had prevailed and to bring the Chinese to a sense of right, seeing that the Chinese either could not or would not do better. It ended the Chinese Authorities adopted effective and reasonable measures to that end they would not have been opposed by the British Government.

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Kwan's coming, to me there would be no difficulty in reaching an understanding with him." A Chinaman may be pardoned for thinking that England is less powerful now than formerly, while as to her "rapacity," he has as a matter of fact she has been dragged into a policy of annexion through her mission as a pioneer of commerce. This, however, is not by the way. The fact remains that the Marquis had been sent to London to influence the Emperor to Great Britain, France, and Russia, the man who negotiated the Treaty of St. Petersburg of February, 1881, providing for the retrocession of Kuldja, and who knows something of Russian aims and policy, and advocates that British aid and support should be sought by the Chinese Government in their dealings with Russia. This Marquis is a man of high position, and is well known to the Chinese and to China alike: is the rapacity of their Moscovite neighbour, whose restless aggressiveness is an ever present menace to both Manchuria and Korea, a sufficient reason for them that instead of mistrusting France and Japan, they should seek a watchful eye on Russia, and they therefore to resist any attempt that may be made to wrest from the control of the Chinese Government the provinces of Mongolia, or Turkestan, or even not have laboured in vain. Still better will it be if they can impart a little of his own confidence in English bond fides to his suspicious and suspicious brother mandarins.

**DISASTROUS FIRE AT BOWRING-  
TON, HONGKONG.**

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Chinkiang was visited with a heavy fall of snow, which commenced on Saturday night and continued without intermission until 11 a.m. this morning. In consequence the steamer *Albatross* did not reach this until noon to-day. It is estimated that the fall of snow has been at least to three feet thick. H.B.M.'s corvette *Cucula* is still in port. *Mercury*, 4th February.

HONGKONG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION.

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During the afternoon there was a fair attendance of visitors, amongst these present being the Hon. the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Gwynne, and the Mission Board, and Lieut. Vyryan, A.D.C.

The arrangements were very effectively carried out by the following gentlemen—Committee—Messrs. W. M. B. Arthur, C. P. Clatton, J. H. De Kock, S. George, H. J. Holmes, J. W. K. Hughes, A. G. Romano, A. D. Yezocher, J. L. Woodin, and the Hon. Mr. J. M. Armstrong (Hon. Treasurer), and Mr. C. Ford (Hon. Secretary).

The prize list was as follows:—

PLANTS IN POTS.

Six Annuals—1, Mr. E. L. Woodin; 2, Mr. D. N. Dowling.

Three Foliage Plants—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. Dickie. Three Flowering Plants—1, Mr. Dickie; 2, Mr. Woodin.

Three Ferns—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. Dickie. Three Camellias—1, Mr. Norwrojee; 3, Mr. Woodin. Three Chrysanthemums—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. George; 3, Mr. Dickie.

Three Geraniums, single—1, Mr. Dickie; 2, Mr. Woodin. Three Geraniums, double—1, Mr. Dickie; 2, Mr. Norwrojee.

Three Roses—1, Mr. Dickie; 2, Mr. Clever Alut. One Chrysanthemum—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. Dickie. Two Chrysanthemums—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Master Willie Armstrong.

One Chrysanthemum—1, Mr. Norwrojee; 2, Mr. Dickie.

One Flowering Plant—1, Mr. Dickie; 2, Mr. J. H. Fox.

One Foliage Plant—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. Norwrojee.

One Camellia—No award.

One Rose—1, Mr. Norwrojee; 2, Mr. Chung Alak.

Two Azaleas—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. Dickie.

One Azalea, English—1, Mr. Norwrojee; 2, Mr. Dickie.

Two Aster—1, Mr. Dickie; 2, Mr. Norwrojee. 3, Mr. Alut, Master Willie Armstrong.

One Annual—1, Mr. Chung Alak; 2, Mr. J. M. Dowling.

One Dahlia—1, Mr. Dickie; 2, Mr. Woodin.

One Geranium—1, Mr. H. J. Holmes; 2, Mr. Woodin.

One Tree Fern—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. C. D. Bateman.

One Azalea—1, Mr. Chi Awai; 2, Mr. Dickie.

One Pink, Carnation or Sweet William—No award.

One Begonia—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. Dickie.

One Gladiolus—1, Mr. Dickie; 2, Mr. Holmes.

One Polargonum—No award.

One Orchid—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. Dickie.

One Daylily—1, Mr. Norwrojee.

One Lily—1, Mr. Dickie.

One Marigold—1, Mr. Norwrojee; 2, Mr. Mody.

One Palm—1, Mr. Dickie; 2, Mr. Bottomley.

One pot of Ficus—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. Dickie.

One pot of Ficus Prunella—1, Mr. Dickie; 2, Mr. Chung Alak.

Six Ferns, indigenous to Hongkong—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. Dickie.

Six Ferns—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. Norwrojee.

CUT FLOWERS.

Four Camelia Blooms—1, Mr. Nowrojee; 2, Mr. Joines.

Four Chrysanthemum Blooms—1, Mr. Nowrojee; 2, Mr. D. Dickie.

Four Rose Blooms—1, Mr. Chang Alak; 2, Mr. Nowrojee.

Six bunches Cut Flowers, dissimilar (each bunch consists of one variety only)—1, Mr. Nowrojee; 2, R. Dickie.

Stumps or Rootwork with Ferns and or Crocuses—Mr. Man Fong; 1, Mr. Woodin.

Hand Bouquet—1, Mr. J. H. Cox; 2, Mrs. Holmes.

Table Decorations—1, Mrs. Linstead; 2, Mrs. Cox.

Table Decorations of Wild Flowers—1, Mrs. Ford.

VEGETABLES.  
Six kinds of Vegetables—1, Mr. Woodin; 2, Mr. Ickle.

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Two Yams—No award.  
Six Arrow-roots, West Indian—No award.  
Six Arrow-roots, East Indian—No award.  
Six Kohl Rabi—No award.

**PRUIT.**

Best collection of Pruit, (grown in Hongkong)—1  
Mr. Nowrojee; 2, Mr. Holmes; 3, Mr. Chung Ahuk.

The Flower Show was continued on Friday  
afternoon and, notwithstanding the unfavourable  
weather, was attended by a considerable number  
of visitors. By the kind permission of Adm-  
Willes, the band of the *Audacious* was present  
and played a good selection of music.

CONSECRATION OF THE STAR OF  
SOUTHERN CHINA LODGE,  
CANTON.

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made for the entertainment of the Grand Lodge officers and visitors, of whom there was a considerable number and all were treated with

the greatest hospitality during their short sojourn in the City of Rams. The building was illuminated outside with a profuse display of flags and bunting, and the streets and corridors were festively decorated with flowers and festoons. The District Grand Master, Right W. Bro. O. C. P. Chester, was present to attend, but sent a letter expressing his regret that he was unable to be present. The interesting and beautiful ceremony of consecration was effectively performed by the following Grand Officers:—D.G.S.W., Wor. Bro. W. V. Adams, M. O., assisted by the following Grand Lodge Officers:—D.G.S.W., Wor. E. C. Bay, D.G.J.W., Wor. Bro. L. Mallory, D.G.S.W., Wor. Bro. C. L. Jones, D.G.S.W., (orphaned), D. G. Secretary, Wor. Bro. C. L. Dugan (acting); D.G.S.D., Wor. W. MacIntosh (acting); D.G.J.D., Wor. W. V. Thompson (acting); N.E.S.W., (acting); D.O. Sap of Honor, Wor. Bro. W. C. Jones; D.G.S.P., Wor. Ceremonies, Wor. Bro. E. G. Galt; D.G.S.B., Wor. Bro. L. K. Kitchman (acting); D. G. O. R. Grand Steward, Bro. J. Orange; D. G. P. Assistant, Bro. C. C. Cox and Paul Jorlan; D. G. Tyler, Bro. C. G. Starn (acting); Wor. Bro. S. J. Douglas (of Kokohama), J. Keating, and E. Fraser Smith, who were all present, took part in the Grand Lodge consecration; and Bro. J. H. Keating, D.D., D.D.S.D. Mason in the new lodge, carried the Book of Constitutions. After the ceremony of consecration had been concluded, the following brethren were elected to be initiated and invested his officers as follows:—S. W., Bro. S. W. H. Wood; J. W., Bro. E. C. Palmer; Treasurer and Seco, Bro. N. E. Bryant; S. D., Bro. J. H. Keating; D. G. J. W., Bro. C. O. C. Bro. D. Reid; Steward, Bro. C. H. Starn (acting); I. G. Bro. J. Strong, Wor. Bro. Christie, then, on behalf of himself and the officers and brethren present, thanked Very W. Bro. Bro. Adams and the officers for the hospitality and their attendance. Very W. Bro. Adams responded in felicitous terms, congratulating the lodge on its formation and on the possession of the new lodge, and expressing his confidence in its future and wishes for its continued prosperity. On the motion of the W. R. Master, several by the Senior Warden, all the visitors present of the lodge were elected Master were elected honorary members. The brethren then adjourned to the dining room, where a sumptuous collation was partaken of. Sunshine to the lodge was then enthusiastically received, and the brethren passed an hour or two in pleasant conviviality. The number of the visitors from Hong Kong returned by the same steamer, and the lodge with them pleasant recollections of their visit to the lodge and of the cordial hospitality which had been extended to them.

1 MANDARIN'S DRUNKEN ADVENTURE

A daily perusal of the *Peking Gazette* is not likely to increase the feelings of resentment against the Chinese Government which are so common among the rulers set over them by Europeans and the authorities of the Capital. Indeed, if the Chinese were not so sadly lacking in the sense of humor, we should say that some of the regulations which are promulgated from time to time inspiring a large number of untold and unnumbered mandarins of all respect on the part of the populace, and encourage the composition of poems and other adficial literature to a very great extent, would be difficult for Chung and the rest to regard with indifference. They are men, like ourselves, who are passionately with themselves, and made of very ordinary flesh and blood indeed. And, as a matter of fact, we do not think the Chinese have any more conscience for their failures and misdeeds than we have. It is true, in its official capacity it is not likely that they have reason to dread them, and from that to hatred is a very short step. It is only because the ordinary Chinese is naturally averse to the application of any sort of punishment that he does not actually fear them. As regards the petty tyrant who trembles in his turn before his own superior, and whose tears flow so freely when publicly put to shame and snubbed, we are not sure that he is any more susceptible of grief whose misdeeds are known but at least as much as the more common element in them as of the tragic. His unlucky potentate appears to have held the office of the New Dominion, a dreary sort of position in which the dwellers in Chinese cities are so much delighted. Chou-suei was his name was a Hunan man, and seems to have felt his loneliness very acutely. One day he received a letter from his wife, who had just been married, and these "finished" him. He could no longer maintain the external dignity proper to his office, and so miserably did he let that he had recourse to that which was the last resort of the Chinese official— to before, and with similar results— to a bottle. In plain words, he went to a tavern, drank heavily for several hours, and got exceedingly drunk. As last he staggered on his legs and tried to make his long legs carry him to the pangs of thirst began to too him, and he hurried into a butcher's shop, of all places, to buy a cup of tea. Here it was that the cold air, which he had been drinking, came to his mind, and from a state of stupor the unfortunate magistrate advanced to a state of frenzy. While the butcher's shop was closed, he seized a scabbard that was lying on the block, and with this he began to strike the wall of the shop. At last, he rushed into the house of a military friend of high rank, and commenced weeping and roaring lustily. "Whereupon," the story goes, "he was sitting at a table, and a messenger came to him with a long staff, reminding him that it was the fifth of the moon it was already too late to sleep. Still the magistrate refused to go, unable to check his rage, and the military friend, who was a friend of his, was obliged to report to his friend. It is precisely always after a previous task to report a blubbing magistrate, especially when he is brandishing a butcher's knife, and the magistrate, angry at

times. This somewhat con-stilled soufflé comes to the weeping mandarin pounding away at the keys of the General, and the General wailing off the blow as best he could, until the hatchet was too much for him and he fled from the General's displeasure. At this juncture some of the Chinese magistrates came to the assistance of the wounded hero, and, bidding the magistrate with no regard whatever for his official dignity, handed him off to headquarters. The aid was instantly brought to the injured man, and the General's magistrates took up the case from his drunken fit. Naturally, the injured man was horror-stricken at finding what he had done in his frenzy. He was placed on his trial, and the case was eventually brought to the attention of the Governor. The Governor made an elaborate statement of the considerations which he had in mind, and the case was referred to the high provincial authorities to visit him and bring him back. According to law, he was to be executed. The Governor, however, in this instance great stress is laid upon the facts that the delinquent was raving drunk when the offense was perpetrated, that there was no evidence of malice premeditated, and that he had no intention of committing a crime. He was, therefore, not a criminal, would, under ordinary circumstances, be allowed to mitigate his punishment to imprisonment for three years; on the other hand, however, he was a native-born Chinese, and the man he had murdered was a foreigner. The Governor suggested that he be transported to the Amoy for military service; a terrible sentence, but one the justice of which is not to be called in question. The Governor's statement of the sentences passed on offenders against the law were as equitably framed and conscientious as accounted for as this case. Every mitigation of sentence is taken into account; the crime is reduced to the less serious offense of culpable homicide, and the punishment that is its due is meted out to the prisoner. But it is none the less a terrible sentence, and a responsible official, in rendering himself so ridiculous in the eyes of the public. It is better that a people should hate their rulers than despise them, as we do not wonder that an example is made of the Governor's case, and that the Governor of propriety and decorum. Drunkenness, though not a national vice by any means, is nevertheless not at all so uncommon in China as some good people in this country would have us believe. It is said that he had recourse to the use of mitigating the odious and exact of his life in Kirin, now finds himself in an infinitely worse position than if he had joined one of those native societies, and that he is now so intensely ill that he is little-known a failure in China, and that he is but which are nevertheless regarded with much respect suspicion by the Government.—*N. Y. Daily News.*

**HONGKONG.**

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The British steamer *Suez*, Captain W. L. Dodd, left Hongkong December 4th, 1893, on a special trip, and stayed at Singapore three days and then proceeded on to all the usual ports in Australia as though to Adelaide, and then returned calling at the usual ports, arriving at Hongkong on February 15th, at noon, having made the round voyage the remarkably quick time of 73 days, which is the quickest round trip that has ever been made. The following are her dates of leaving the ports on her return trip:—Noronstein Jan. 20th, Sydney 22nd, Brisbane 25th, Townsville 28th, Cooktown 29th, Thursday Feb. 1st, Melbourne 2nd, Hobart 3rd, Sydney 5th, Melbourne 7th, Adelaide 10th, Hongkong 15th.

A telegram has been received by the Japanese Consul stating that Lieut.-General Oyama, the Minister of War, left Yokohama on the 16th inst.

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back, and it was hoped he would recover. He was 54 years of age, and had spent the greater portion of his life in Hongkong, where he was

continually reoriented in the struggle between the forces of the Australian-Japanese war machine and the Australian-American war machine. The Australian-Japanese war machine was a smaller scale war with the United States and other Allies. The Australian-American war machine was a larger scale war with the United States and other Allies. The Australian-Japanese war machine was a smaller scale war with the United States and other Allies. The Australian-American war machine was a larger scale war with the United States and other Allies.

credit to the Royal Artillery. The Challen Cup had been won for this year by Sergeant Denson. The cup had originally been presented

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Chambers, as it was said by the junior crews of the "Shamrock," was not the most comfortable place in the world, but there was nevertheless a good attendance of spectators, who followed the race in launches. The boats were paddled over to the Kewlawn side and in two instances it proved favorable for the "Shamrock," but the "Korablume" was the victor of both races. The first was with the "Lure," which had scarcely got a hundred yards from shore when the tow was snapped, and they had to return for another. The second mislay was due to the "Korablume" being so badly coming off on the Kewlawn side, that the "Shamrock" gambled at "Korablume" and the boys on board verily put the carrricht for the crown. As stated previously, one of the ootries, Brownlow crew, scuttled, and so the number of boats was reduced to three. The "Shamrock" was effected, and Sassoon setting a strong "stroke," and "Korablume" kept about level for a space, and the "Lure" fell into last place. "Shamrock" may say, however, Sassoon's "stroke" was long, and that was the reason he was distinguished, the "Rose" being the first to collapse, which it did about one-third of the way down the course. The "Rose" was quickly nipped, and from that point held the position of leading boat. The "Shamrock" was the next to pass the "Shamrock." After the Sassoon collapsed, and he exchanged places with his cox, Denrison, who steered the boat home. The "Rose" held its own to the end, pulling steadily, and as they were about to finish, the "Shamrock" was cheered by the "Korablume" and the "Lure," and the "Rose" who had befriended them were last, cheered by the "Shamrock" and the "Korablume" for three lengths behind, second, whilst the "Shamrock," though it forged ahead of the "Korablume," was disqualified by cheating it by also fouling the latter, and the "Shamrock" was also disqualified. The "Shamrock" was good water, and a fair cox for the "Shamrock," and some improvement of form was displayed. The crews were as follows:

Stephens (hon.)	Davis (JERK)
Schuland, S.	Bess, Z.
Slawick, S.	King, A.
Cornish (strakon).	Fisher (stroke).
H. Sampson (con).	Fisher (con).
" <b>KOHNENLUKE</b> ."	" <b>SHALMOORE</b> ."
Swanwick, J.	Owen (bow).
Schwabauer, Z.	Owen (bow).
Staubler, B.	Jackson, S.
Stewart, W.	Sampson (stroke).
Decklin (cox)	Decklin (cox)

The chartered transport *Hankou*, with naval and military reliefs and reinforcements arrived from England on the morning of the 8th inst. The crew of the Hongkong were composed as follows, officers having been sent by cable communications—Lieut.-Col. S. Graves (military officer in command), Captain Backhouse and Chippsalland, all of the Buffs; Major Knollys, Capt. Stirling, Capt. Ross and Capt. Dainton, all of the Devonshire Light Infantry; Lieut. Col. G. H. Maitland, Royal Artillery; Lieut. Col. C. E. R. Jones, Royal Garrison Artillery; Surgeon Harris, A. M. D., in medical charge.

The Naval officers were—Lieuts Lowndell and Cox, Sub-Lieut. Parker, Assistant Surgeon M. G. F. B. de la Motte, Surgeons Hopkin, Messrs. Macdonald, Croft, and Dr. G. L. G. Macdonald, Barratt and Cronin, clerks, and Mr. G. L. G. Macdonald, purser.

There were also three ladies, viz.—Mrs. Graves and two servants; Mrs. Stirling, with one child; and Mrs. Backhouse and two children. There were made up as follows:—From the Devonshire—First Lieutenant Sir John Maitland, seven women, and 11 children; Royal Artillery—33 men and three women; Royal Engineers—66 men, two women, and one child; Buffs—39 men, 13 men, two women, and four children; Buffs, one woman; Buffs, one woman; Royal Marines Light Infantry, 25 men; Royal Marine Light Infantry, 26 men. From Queenstown—168 men of the Buffs (East Kent Regiment), with two women; Buffs, one woman, and one of the Royal Engineers. From 1st/4th March's Landing Battalion, there were 147 Artillery for the Garrison and 169 infantry, besides six Engineers, and eleven Army Hospital Corps men.

On the 10th inst. 16 men in all 10 officers and 64 men. During the day the boats and their crews were conveyed ashore by the steam tug *Albatross* and they raised cheers for the ship that brought them on shore as they left. The *Hankow* was ordered to leave at 10 p.m. On the 11th inst. 94 men, ladies, men, and their wives, the greater number of the men from the garrison being invalided. The following officers went by

Bufts; Surgeon Harris, A.M.D.; Lieut. Secy.  
 W. A. H. Gray, R.N.; Lieut. Theo. F. C. Dando,  
 R.N.; Lieut. Hugh S. Barton, R.N.; Mr. James  
 Murphy, Beakswain. The lady passengers  
 were:—Mrs. Mulloy, Mrs. Howarth, Mrs.  
 Braconbury, and Mrs. Fleming. Mr.  
 Trotter was passenger to Singapore. The men  
 comprised 85 rank and file of the Buffs,  
 11 men of the Royal Artillery; 10 men of  
 the Royal Engineers; 12 men of the Army  
 Hospital Corps; 1 Sergeant of the Ordnance  
 Store Corps; and about 60 seamen and marines.

and thirty-one children.

CHINA.

**CANTON.**  
[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

8th February.

There is little news of interest here just present. All is quiet and the people have again recommenced active business after the New Year holidays.

The only item of real interest is that Mr. Thos. Marsh Brown has got permission to commence rebuilding the houses destroyed on St. James street during the recent riot. He has had architect, I hear, to survey the ruins and make a plan of the new ones. This shows that the minds of the officials are well reassured of quiet and order of the place. Everything appears to wait the result of the attack on B. nial. The fall of that place will probably lead the war party in the capital to give in and agree to some terms of cessation of hostilities. But, that, the terms will be hardly the longer a moment of the difficulty is deferred.

**SWATOW.**

On Sunday, the 3rd instant, at about 5.30 p.m. the wind changed from N.E. to W. and N.W.

main fast and heavy. The wind became strong that night large and small outriggers were blown down the coast and many were broken into pieces. The loss of life was not small. Two foreign vessels dragged their anchors and little. Three Europeans whilst coming for their boats to land on the narrow causeway—*Amoy Gazette Correspondent.*

**FOOCHOW.**  
The Chinese Authorities at Foochow eviden

consider that at the present critical juncture, it is advisable to be kept well posted with affairs of the Government, and that the following information regarding the mandarin has recently been obtained (this appointment dating from the French corvette *Yell* call) to visit the Anhangro by steam launch, and to be accompanied by a Chinese official to make an official report of the aspect of affairs at Manaoi.

We are informed by the Superintendent of the Western Australian, London, and Cape Telegraph Company, that the Corrier Service between Foochow and Sharp Peak is at present interrupted, owing to the action of the mandarin, who has refused to allow the mandarin to pass, although duly authorized by the British Telegraph flags, to ply between Sharp Peak and Kimpai. The British Consul has been informed of this, and we can only express a hope that an immediate and effective course of action will be taken in the matter.

The last Market Report of the Season, published under the direction of the Foochow General Chamber of Commerce, is a most interesting and valuable interesting, although as a Comparative Return the statistics of the trade of Foochow are rather unattractive. The Report shows that the total value of the trade of the port has declined 4,029,029Tis. This, however, is so great a falling off as noticeable at the end of the previous season, when there was a decrease of 1,000,000Tis. The Report also shows that the value of the trade of the port has declined 4,029,029Tis. This, however, is so great a falling off as noticeable at the end of the previous season, when there was a decrease of 1,000,000Tis. The Report also shows that the value of the trade of the port has declined 4,029,029Tis. This, however, is so great a falling off as noticeable at the end of the previous season, when there was a decrease of 1,000,000Tis.

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last have been very fully completed.

Several more of the native banks in Foochow have suspended payment during the past week, and the largest failure being that of Leong Poo, who has a large business in the city, and whose office is in Ying Chang street, and became bankrupt on the 2nd inst. with rather heavy liabilities. Soon after the failure was announced, the premises were completely wrecked by the creditors, assisted by the police, and the goods and furniture were sold. Tak Hoo also became insolvent, but only after a brief time, and there is a probability of a composition being made; as also in the case of another, whose business made: as well as others who have disrupted the previous day, but whose premises have not been devastated. As almost invariably the houses occupied by defaulting bankers are immediately destroyed, owners of this description are not in a position to make a composition, as possible, either by having deposited a sum equivalent to the value of the premises, or otherwise, by charging exorbitant rates, thus increasing their liabilities.

Several of the houses in Foochow are not only very very heavy losses in case of fire, but are also very liable to be destroyed by earthquake. Several of the recent failures have been so completely destroyed by the latter calamity, that they are now considered by false rumours of the instability of "houses" being circulated by unscrupulous Chinamen, who by creating a panic, are enabled to obtain large amounts of money from the terrified owners. Two of such soundings were arrested a few days ago and conveyed into the City Prison, and it is to be hoped that their punishment will be as severe as the gravity of their offences.

We have received further information regarding the disastrous accident which recently occurred at Matsien Island. It appears that the Chinese corvette "Yang Wo" stemmed out from the island on the 10th inst., and on the 11th, at 10 o'clock, and, upon the following day, the weather being clear and fine, commenced target practice at a range of between 1,400 and 2,000 yards. The vessel fired some twenty shots and shells, most of which were whistling and exploding in the air, and were scattered on the shore of Matsien Island in a circle of a range of hills, the height of which (about 200 feet) was considered sufficient protection for the two villages on the island; the one of which is situated on the north-east, and the other on the south, whilst the village of Ta Pa was unfortunately in a direct line with both the target



